

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An implant retaining device comprising:

a body dimensioned to cover at least a portion of an opening to a receiving bed formed between adjoining vertebral bodies, the body having a single throughbore dimensioned to receive a screw; and

a screw for securing said body to one of the adjoining vertebral bodies.

2. The implant retaining device as recited in claim 1, wherein said body has a rectangular configuration.

3. The implant retaining device as recited in claim 1, wherein said body has a circular configuration.

4. The implant retaining device as recited in claim 1, wherein said body is curved along its longitudinal axis.

5. The implant retaining device as recited in claim 1, wherein said body is curved along its transverse axis.

6. The implant retaining device as recited in claim 1, wherein said body is in the form of a plate.

7. The implant retaining device as recited in claim 1, wherein said body is formed from partially demineralized bone.

8. A method of retaining an intervertebral implant within a receiving bed formed between adjoining vertebral bodies, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a retaining plate having at least one throughbore for receiving a bone screw, the retaining plate being dimensioned to extend at least partly across a disk space defined between the adjoining vertebral bodies, and

attaching the retaining plate to only one of the adjoining vertebral bodies such that the retaining plate extends at least partly across the disk space between the vertebral bodies.

9. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said plate has a rectangular configuration.

10. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said plate has a circular configuration.

11. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said plate is curved along its longitudinal axis.

12. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said plate is curved along its transverse axis.

13. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said plate is formed from bone.

14. The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the bone is cortical bone.

15. The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the bone is partially demineralized bone.